

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 19, 21, 22 and 24 as follows:

3. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to Claim 1 wherein, when the clutch mechanism (1) is in a disengaged position, the Belleville assistance ring (B) applies no force on the diaphragm (10).

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4. (Amended) A clutch mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the mechanism includes two centring members selected from three possible centring members, for centring between one of; the cover plate (12) and diaphragm (10), and between the diaphragm (10) and the Belleville assistance ring (B), and between the cover plate (12) and the Belleville assistance ring (B).

5. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the Belleville assistance ring (B) is mounted between the pressure plate (7) and the cover plate (12), and in that the Belleville assistance ring (B) has radially external lugs (24) which are bent back to define hooks (25) that surround the peripheral portion (10a) of the diaphragm with a clearance when the clutch mechanism (1) is in a disengaged position.

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7. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the Belleville assistance ring (B) is mounted on the outside of the cover plate (12), in that it includes radially external lugs defining hooks (45) that extend through apertures (47) formed through the cover plate, so as to come into engagement with the diaphragm (10), and in that the Belleville assistance ring (B) engages on the external wall of the cover plate (12) through an abutment bead (48).

8. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to Claim 5 wherein, the Belleville assistance ring (B) is frustoconical in form with a minor base and a major base, in that the minor base is in permanent abutment on the diaphragm (10) at points situated in the

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vicinity of the points of articulation of the diaphragm (10), and in that the major base bears on the internal wall of the cover plate (12) when the clutch mechanism is in a disengaged position.

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10. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to any one of Claim 1 wherein, the Belleville assistance ring (B) is mounted between the pressure plate (7) and cover plate (12), in that the Belleville assistance ring (B) includes radially external lugs (35) which are bent back at substantially 90° and each of which terminates in a driving foot (37), and in that the said external lugs (35) are adapted to be lodged within notches (40) formed at the periphery of the diaphragm (10).

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12. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to Claim 10, wherein the external lugs (35) of the Belleville assistance ring (B) are fitted by elastic deformation within notches (40) of the diaphragm (10).

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14. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to claim 10, wherein the Belleville assistance ring (B) includes radially internal lugs (39) which are bent back outwards in a direction away from that of the radially external lugs (35), and in that the said internal lugs (39) are engaged freely within oblong radial apertures (42) formed through the cover plate (12), with the said internal lugs (39) centring the Belleville assistance ring (B) with respect to the cover plate.

as

19. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to claim 16, wherein the forward abutment consists of an external wall of the cover plate (12), or is fixed to the said external wall, and in that the rear abutment on which the Belleville assistance ring (B) bears when the clutch mechanism (1) is in a disengaged position, consists of an internal wall of the cover plate (12) or is fixed with respect to the said internal wall.

21. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to claim 16, wherein the clutch mechanism includes a mechanism for centring the Belleville assistance ring (B) and cover plate (12), the mechanism for centring including radially internal lugs (59) of the Belleville assistance ring (B), the lugs (59) being bent back so as to penetrate freely into apertures (60) in the cover plate (12).

22. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the Belleville assistance ring (B) is provided with eyelets (64) spaced apart over its periphery and constituting seatings for radial lugs (66) which are extensions of the periphery of the diaphragm (10).

24. (Amended) A diaphragm clutch mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the Belleville assistance ring (B) bears on the rear abutment carried by the cover plate (12) regardless of the position of the clutch mechanism (1).